

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 195710
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 EB-08 INR-07 SSO-00 OES-07
L-03 INRE-00 /051 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:AATHIBAULT,JR.:JES
APPROVED BY NEA/INS:PWLANDE
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 195710

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETEL, IN

SUBJECT: ASA CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR INSAT

1. DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN INFORMED BY NASA THAT IT HAS RECEIVED LETTER FROM DR. S. DHAWAN, SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DOS,,TO NASA ADMINISTRATOR FROSCHE TNDTCATING THAT GOI HAS RECENTLY APPROVED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INSAT PROJECT. DHAWAN NOTES THAT DOS WILL BE OPERATING ON A TIGHT SCHEDULE AIMED AT HAVING THE FIRST INSAT SPACECRAFT LAUNCHED BY DECEMBER 1980. AS A FIRST STEP, THEREFORE, DOS IS PLANNING TO ISSUE REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) FROM POTENTIAL CONTRACTORS FOR THE SPACE SEGMENT OF THE PROGRAM BY THE END OF THE FIRST WEEK OF OCTOBER, 1977.

2. DOS IS PRESENTLY ENGAGED IN PREPARING A DRAFT RFP WHICH DHAWAN STATES WILL REQUIRE EXPERT REVIEW BY OUTSIDE CONSULTANTS BEFORE IT CAN BE ISSUED IN OCTOBER. THUS, A SE-
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PARATE REQUEST FOR TECHNICAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES IS ATTACHED TO DHAWAN'S LETTER INVITING NASA TO DESPATCH ITS OWN EXPERTS TO CONSULT IN THE SPECIFIC AREAS OF SPACECRAFT COMMUNICATION SUB-SYSTEMS, ATTITUDE CONTROL AND VHRR (VERY HIGH RESOLUTION RADIOMETER) INSTRUMENTATION. OTHER U.S. CONSULTANTS BEING INVITED TO ASSIST DOS IN THIS REVIEW STAGE

INCLUDE COMSAT GENERAL, FUTURE SYSTEMS INC., AND DRS. PRITCHARD AND MARSTEN. DHAWAN SPECIFIES THAT THE CONSULTANTS WILL BE NEEDED IN BANGALORE DURING THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 14 THROUGH 17, IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO THE ISSUANCE OF THE SPACE SEGMENT RFPS. THUS, NASA MUST DECIDE WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS WHETHER IT CAN AND SHOULD AGREE TO PROVIDE THE DESIRED CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO DOS.

3. NASA TELLS US THAT IT DOES NOT CUSTOMARILY PROVIDE CONSULTING SERVICES AND IS NOT SURE WHETHER IT MAY DO SO UNDER ITS CHARTER. WHILE ITS LAUYERS ARE SORTING OUT THIS ISSUE NASA IS ALSO KEENLY INTERESTED IN RECEIVING STATE'S VIEWS ABOUT SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT, VIEWS WHICH COULD HAVE AN IMPORTANT BEARING ON WHETHER IT WILL DECIDE TO ACCEPT DHAWAN'S INVITATION.

4. WE WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE STRONGLY NASA COOPERATION WITH DOS BELIEVING THAT ITS BENEFITS ARE CLEAR. AMONG THESE ARE ENHANCING THE PROSPECTS FOR SELECTION OF A U.S. CONTRACTOR FOR THE INSAT SPACE SEGMENT. IN ADDITION, A TECHNICAL RELATIONSHIP WITH NASA WOULD PROMOTE LONG-TERM U.S. INFLUENCE ON A PROGRAM WHICH WILL HAVE A MAJOR IMPACT ON INDIA'S MODERN SECTOR. FINALLY, SUCH COLLABORATION IN OUR VIEW FULLY ACCORDS WITH THE INTEREST OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS IN EXPANDED TIES WHILE UNDERSCORING U.S. WILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT INDIAN EFFORTS IN DEVELOPING ITS SCIENTIFIC CAPABILITIES.

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5. NASA WISHES TO ARRIVE AT A DECISION BY THE END OF THE WEEK AND RESPOND TO DHAWAN. WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING YOUR VIEWS ON THE DEPARTMENT'S PROPOSED POSITION, ALONG WITH ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION YOU MAY BE ABLE TO DEVELOP ON THE INSAT PROJECT, BY OUR OPENING OF BUSINESS, FRIDAY, AUGUST 19. VANCE

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMUNICATION SATELLITES, CONSULTANTS, SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE195710
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AATHIBAULT,JR.:JES
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D770297-0605
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197708113/aaaafynz.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: 0e7eb350-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12-Apr-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1442417
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 970911
Subject: ASA CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR INSAT
TAGS: ETEL, TSPA, IN, ETEL, INSAT, NASA
To: NEW DELHI
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0e7eb350-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009